

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: Delayed Expansion in Chinese Swine Herd

Country: China - People's Republic of

Post: Beijing

Report Category: Agricultural Situation, Livestock and Products, Pest/Disease Occurrences, Agriculture in the Economy, Agriculture in the News

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Report Highlights:

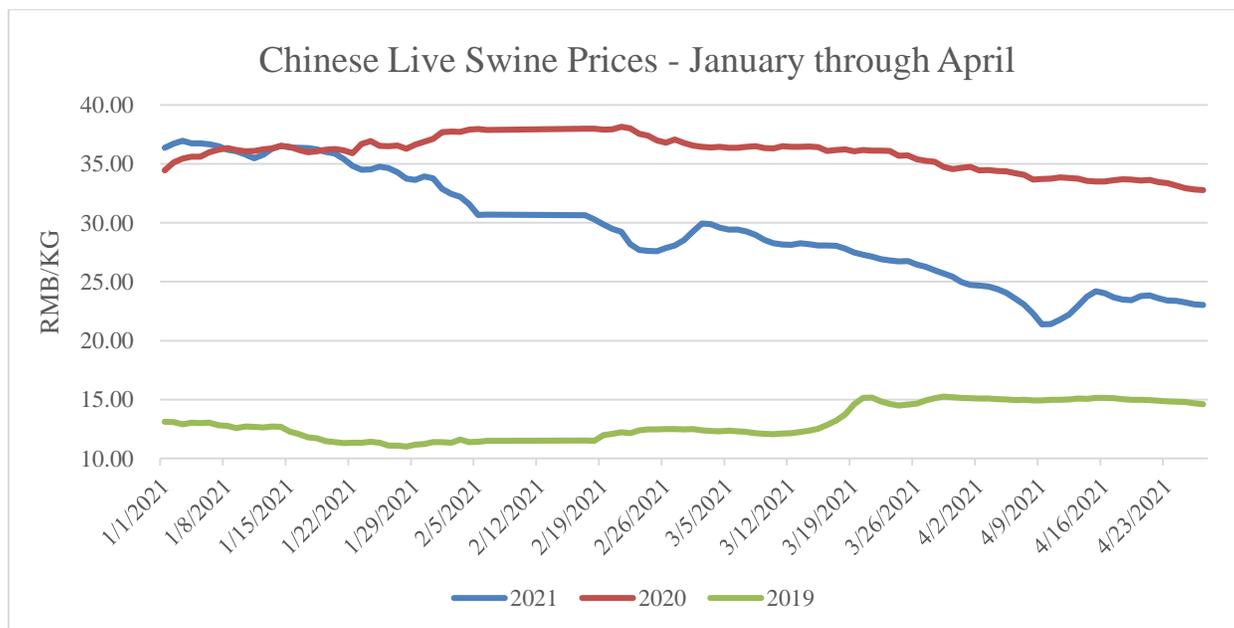
Swine numbers are not likely to rebound until at least mid-2021 if the current African Swine Fever (ASF) outbreak is brought under control. In late 2020 a resurgence of ASF reduced China's population of breeding sows and piglets. These losses continued through the first quarter of 2021 as ASF outbreaks were reported in multiple provinces.

In November and December 2020 China experienced a resurgence of ASF. Chinese veterinary institutes identified new strains of ASF, which due to lower virulency and lethality were able to spread to a larger portion of the herd before being detected. Reports noted that the new ASF strains appeared to cause lameness in breeding sows and increased the piglet mortality rate. During this period, industry sources noted that the mortality rate and/or culling of breeding sows due to ASF infections ranged from 20 percent to as high as 50 percent, depending on the area.

Following China's outbreak of ASF in 2018, swine producers incorporated commercial gilts into the breeding sow population to quickly rebuild the herd according to industry sources. This lowered the overall productivity levels of China's breeding sows. Additionally, while certain provinces implemented movement restrictions on live swine – the movements of breeding sows and piglets were not restricted. On April 16, 2021 MARA published a notice limiting the transport of live swine between regions that will go into effect on May 1, 2021. The regulation in Chinese can be found here:

http://www.moa.gov.cn/govpublic/xmsyj/202104/t20210421_6366333.htm

Between January and April 2021, the price for live swine in China declined by nearly 36 percent (see chart below). This is typically a period of weaker consumer demand for pork. However, an increase in slaughter rates (including large-weight and under-weight hogs) likely exacerbated the price decline. Additionally, some producers are delaying restocking their farms due to concerns about the new ASF strains and outbreaks, high piglet prices, and high feed costs. These factors will likely slow China's swine herd rebuild in 2021 and offers a counter perspective to recent statements made by Chinese officials.



Source: MARA

Attachments:

No Attachments.